

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-fifth International Convention
San Diego, California
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C/U
6/8/12 am

Resolution # R-42

LINDA KUHN

In 1965 the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Office hired a young woman—Linda Kuhn into an office clerical position. For twenty years she worked mainly as a receptionist in the Benefit Plans Office, being the welcoming voice that longshore members and retirees would first hear when calling in about their benefits.

In 1984 Linda accepted a job with the ILWU International as the telephone receptionist. There she displayed great skill and judgment in handling sensitive calls, particularly for the International Officers. Her pleasant voice welcomed callers to the ILWU and left them with a good impression of the union. Always willing to take on new responsibilities, Linda performed additional work including typing and helping to manage *The Dispatcher* mailing list, which at that time, was on 3” by 5” cards. She also took on the research and selection of a new phone system—one that is still in use at the International.

In 1990 then International President James R. “Jimmy” Herman promoted Linda to the position of Executive Secretary to the Titled Officers, a position she holds to this day. Jimmy could not have made a better choice. This job entailed much more than being a secretary to the officers. It included managing the International headquarters building at 1188 Franklin Street and being the office manager, that is, managing the entire clerical staff at the headquarters.

Linda proved extremely adept in her new position. Her judgment about what is important for the Officers to review, as opposed to routine issues, was outstanding. She has a finely tuned antenna operating as an early warning system for the Officers about impending problems.

Linda is often the voice and face of the ILWU to rank and file members, local union officials, other non-ILWU International Officers, politicians, and others seeking a word or meeting with the Titled Officers. She has represented the ILWU as well as anyone could and has endeared herself to all those she has spoken with or met.

With nearly 5 decades of work for the ILWU and the Benefit Plans Office, Linda's counsel is often sought by Officers, staff, and others. Her views and opinions are greatly respected.

During Linda's tenure with the ILWU she has managed to have a personal life. She and her husband Don have been married for 50 years this year and they have two daughters, Andre and Renee; and three grandchildren, Christopher, Alec and Leah.

After 47 years of service to the ILWU rank and file, Linda is retiring later this year. It is certainly a well-deserved retirement, but she will be dearly missed by all the lives she has touched both inside and outside of the ILWU family.

Linda, we wish you many years of health and happiness in your retirement. Please come back to visit us often. There are no words to express our gratitude to you, but know that you are loved within the ILWU.